

REMARKS

In the current Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1 to 11 as anticipated by Faiks et al. It is submitted that amended claim 1 is distinguished from this reference, as are claims 3 to 11 which depend from amended claim 1.

Faiks does not have a guide bar pivotally mounted between the upper pivot of a seat plate and the lower pivot of a seat support, nor is the spring or energy storing device arranged between the upper pivot of the seat plate and the adjustable interlocking element. Instead, the part 11 identified by the Examiner as the guide bar in Faiks is the shifter or adjustment mechanism and projects forwardly from seat part 3, as best seen in Figure 16. The forward end of the spring 8 is secured to the seat support 3. This is therefore the conventional arrangement mentioned in paragraph 12, page 4 of the present application, where the spring is supported on a point of the seat support which is fixed to the housing. In contrast, the present invention has the front end of the energy storing device or spring positioned on the swiveling part of a guide bar, which is positioned at the forward edge of the seat support.

Because of the way the energy storing device or spring is mounted in this invention, only a spring of relatively small dimensions is needed and the seat is less expensive to produce than prior art such as Faiks where a larger dimensioned spring will be required. The additional prestress of the spring by the pivoting guide bar 23 when the backrest support is pivoted backwards will increase the spring pressure, as described in paragraph 36 on page 9 of this application, allowing a smaller dimension spring to be used while still achieving the necessary spring resistance.

It is believed that amended claim 1 is fully distinguished from Faiks and all other cited references, and reconsideration and reversal of the rejection in paragraph 2 of the Office Action is respectfully requested.

Claims 2 to 11 depend from amended claim 1 and are distinguished from

Faiks for the same reasons as claim 1, and additionally since these claims define other features not described or suggested by Faiks or any other cited reference.

Accompanying this amendment is an Information Disclosure Statement bringing to the Examiner's attention some prior art references cited in the corresponding European patent application, now European Patent No. 1440632. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner review and make of record the references listed in the Information Disclosure Statement. It is submitted that amended claim 1 is also distinguished from these references.

It is believed that claims 1 and 3 to 11 are now in condition for allowance, and early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. If there are any outstanding objections or rejections which could be dealt with by means of a telephone interview, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

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